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USSN 09/778,165
Amendment Dated August 4, 2003
Reply to Office Action Dated February 4, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polyacrylate obtainable obtained by thermal crosslinking of a polymer mixture comprising the following components:
 - a) a polyacrylate copolymer of the following monomers
 - a1) acrylates and/or methacrylates of the following formula
$$\text{CH}_2 = \text{CH}(\text{R}^1)(\text{COOR}^2),$$
where R^1 = H or CH_3 and R^2 is an alkyl chain with 1-20 carbon atoms, at 65-99% by weight, based on a),
 - a2) olefinically unsaturated monomers containing functional groups, at 0-15% by weight, based on a),
 - a3) acrylates and/or methacrylates whose alcohol component contains tert-butoxycarbonyl (BOC) and/or hydroxyl groups, at 1-20% by weight, based on a),
at 80-99.8% by weight, based on the polymer mixture of claim 1,
 - b) a polymerization regulating photoinitiator at 0.1-15% by weight, based on the polymer mixture of claim 1,
 - c) difunctional isocyanate and/or bifunctional epoxide at 0.1-5% by weight based on the polymer mixture of claim 1.
2. (Original) The polyacrylate as claimed in claim 1, wherein

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component b) is used at 0.5-1.5% by weight, based on the polymer mixture, and/or component c) is used at 0.5-1% by weight, based on the polymer mixture.

3. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a crosslinked polyacrylate according to claim 1, wherein the polymers to be crosslinked are first protected by introduction of tert-butoxycarbonyl groups and the crosslinking takes place only after deprotecting with a polymerization regulating photoinitiator by thermal treatment of the now deprotected polyacrylates.
4. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a crosslinked polyacrylate according to claim 1, wherein the polymers to be crosslinked are first protected by introduction of tert-butoxycarbonyl groups and the crosslinking takes place only after deprotecting with a polymerization regulating photoinitiator, by adding crosslinker substances and by thermal treatment of the now deprotected polyacrylates.
5. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a crosslinked polyacrylate according to claim 1, wherein the polymers to be crosslinked are first protected by introduction of tert-butoxycarbonyl groups and the crosslinking takes place only after deprotecting with a polymerization regulating photoinitiator, by adding difunctional or polyfunctional isocyanates and by thermal treatment of the now deprotected polyacrylates.
6. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a crosslinked polyacrylate according to claim 1, wherein the polymers to be crosslinked are first protected by introduction of tert-butoxycarbonyl groups and the crosslinking takes place only after deprotecting with a polymerization regulating photoinitiator, by adding difunctional or polyfunctional epoxides and by thermal treatment of the now deprotected polyacrylates.

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7. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in one of claims 3-6 wherein the protective groups are eliminated by irradiation with UV light.
8. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein to eliminate the protective groups the polymer mixture is irradiated with ultraviolet light through a mask in such a way that only certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to the UV radiation.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously Presented) A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition comprising a polyacrylate according to claim 1.
12. (Previously Presented) An adhesive tape comprising a backing and a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition according to claim 11 present as a film adhered to one or both sides of said backing.